

Trail Map

Ninety Six

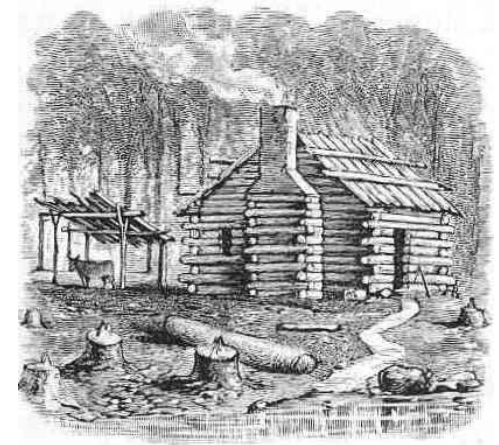
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

National Historic Site
South Carolina



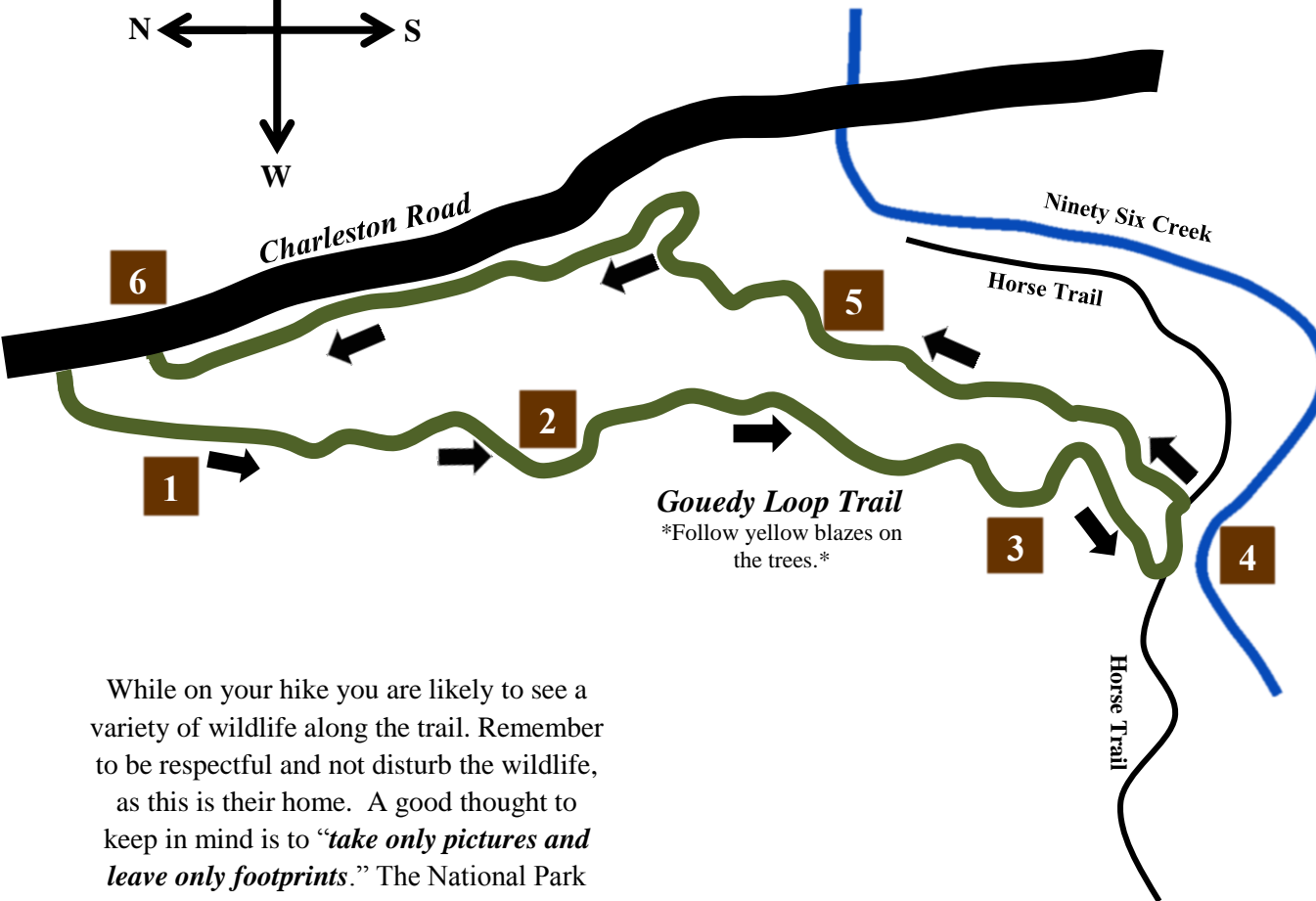
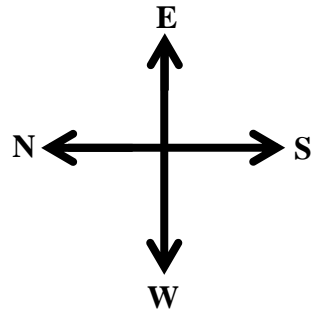
Gouedy Trail

The Gouedy Trail, **approximately 1 ½ miles long**, is a loop trail that will take about **an hour and half to hike**. It will provide you with a wonderful nature experience in a unique area of the park. The Gouedy Trail experience is an exciting adventure filled with mystery in one of the parks most historical areas.



Ninety Six National Historic Site Ninety Six, SC

Phone: (864) 543-4068
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While on your hike you are likely to see a variety of wildlife along the trail. Remember to be respectful and not disturb the wildlife, as this is their home. A good thought to keep in mind is to “*take only pictures and leave only footprints.*” The National Park Service sincerely hopes that you have a wonderful experience as you enjoy the Gouedy Trail and the rest of Ninety Six National Historic Site!



SELF GUIDED TOUR

1 Robert Gouedy's Trading Post

In the early 1750s Robert Gouedy, an Indian trader moved his trading operation from the Eastern Mountains of Tennessee to the Ninety Six District. He became the first permanent settler in this area. On this site Gouedy established a thriving trading post and soon became a dominant figure on the frontier. His trading post would have had items such as cloth, beads, needles, tools, gunpowder, lead, rum, & other articles that settlers and Indians in the area would have used.

As trade continued in the backcountry the relationship between the Cherokee and the Settlers became stressed. As tensions grew the Cherokee began to attack. In 1759 a stockade fort was built around one of Gouedy's barns to offer protection from these attacks. Over the course of two months Fort Ninety Six survived two attacks by the Cherokee on February 3 and March 3, 1760. Despite the fact the Cherokee were driven off in both attacks they managed to destroy the Gouedy's home during their first strike.

Today all that is left is the meadow in front of you. The roots of the modern town of Ninety Six are traced back to this meadow. As you continue on remember that at one time this was a wild frontier.

2 James Gouedy's Grave Site

This tombstone, reworked by the Free Masons in 1958, marks the location of

James Gouedy's grave, the son of Robert Gouedy. It is believed that Robert Gouedy is buried somewhere nearby in an unknown location.



The description on James Gouedy's weather worn tombstone reads:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
MAJOR JAMES GOUEDY
DIED 5 MARCH 1816
AGED 50 YEARS

3 Unmarked Grave Site

In this Colonial era cemetery lie the graves of approximately 50 unknown people. Body length depressions of many gravesites are still visible today. The graves may seem short however the average height during that time was 5' 5". Many of the graves are marked with simple fieldstones. Local tradition indicates that this might be slave cemetery.

4 Ninety Six Creek

Water represented life for settlers in the backcountry. Small tributaries and springs such as this one in front of you gave birth to settlements. Thriving towns such as Ninety Six or a trading post like Robert

Gouedy's needed a steady and reliable supply of water. This area had and still has numerous sources of water which is one of the reasons it was settled.

5 Hardwood Bottom

The thick hardwood bottom surrounding you is similar to what early settlers would have encountered. They used the same trees you see to build a new life. Early settlers didn't have the luxuries of mechanical equipment. They had to clear their land, build their home, and collect their food by hand. Today, the bottom is a relatively young growth forest. During and before the early 18th century this area would have been full of huge hardwoods with little to no underbrush. Imagine the struggles of building a home in a wilderness such as this.

6 The Charleston Road

This colonial road, which led from Charleston into the backcountry, may well be the oldest road in all of upper South Carolina. Traders carrying trinkets and other goods to the Cherokee Indians were the first people to use this road. Later the Charleston Road became one of the primary avenues of travel for settlers heading into the South Carolina backcountry. Its sunken appearance shows just how great the volume of traffic was on this route. The Charleston Road was a doorway to a new life that brought settlers filled with hope and promise into what was once considered the frontier.